Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

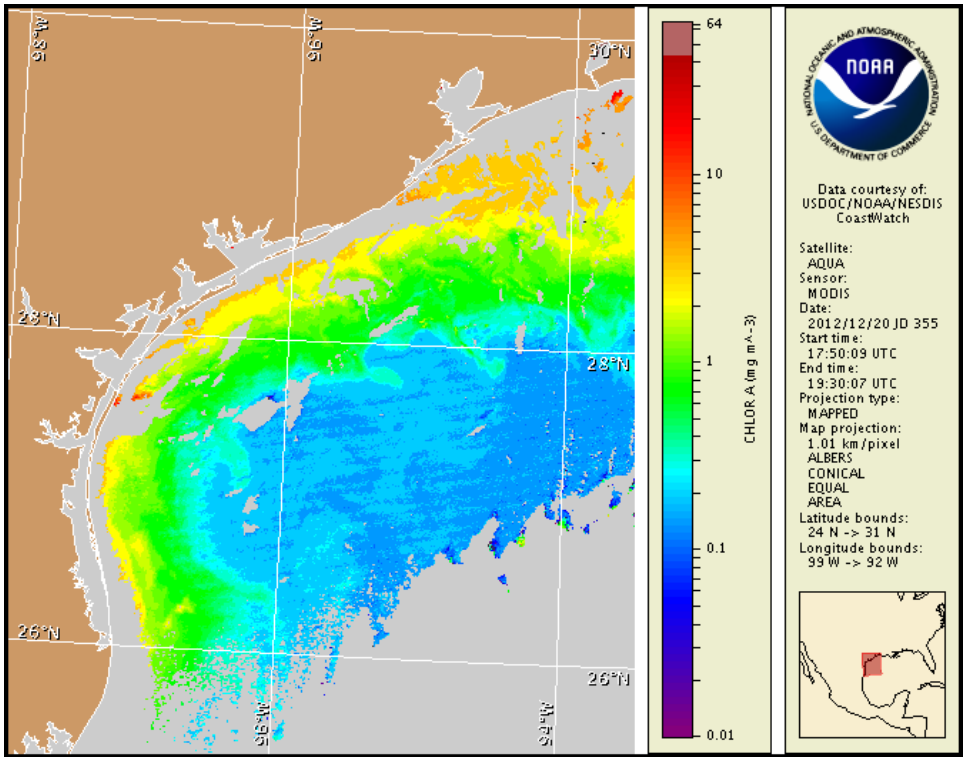
Wednesday, 26 December 2012

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, December 17, 2012



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from December 16 to 20 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us./landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml

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To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of *Karenia brevis* at the coast in Texas. No respiratory impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Monday, December 31. For information on area shellfish restrictions, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

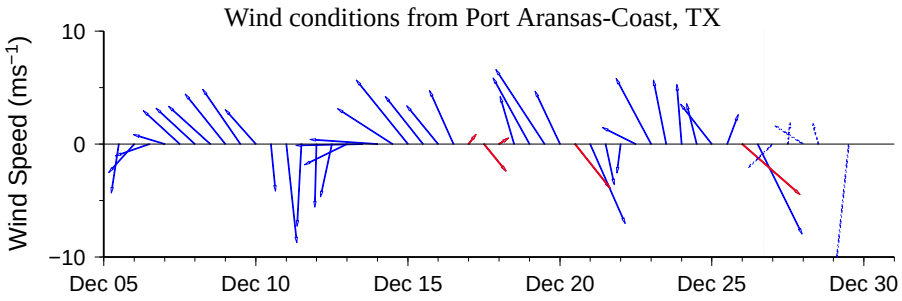
Analysis

Due to technical difficulties, the most recent MODIS imagery is presently unavailable. We apologize for any inconvenience. The issue will be resolved as soon as possible.

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of *Karenia brevis* at the coast in Texas. No additional samples have been received since previous sampling reported very low concentrations of *K. brevis* in Corpus Christi Bay on December 12 (TPWD, DSHS; 12/21). There have been no reports of *K. brevis* elsewhere along the Texas coast.

MODIS Aqua imagery from 12/20 (shown left) is partially obscured by clouds alongshore the entire Texas coast, limiting analysis. Elevated chlorophyll (2-5 μg/L) is visible in patches along- and offshore Sabine Pass to south of the Rio Grande. Elevated chlorophyll is not indicative of the presence of *K. brevis* and is most likely due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast. Patches of elevated to high chlorophyll (4 to >10 μg/L) are also present along- and offshore Mustang Island, but these are most likely artifacts of clouds in the imagery. Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential southerly transport from the Port Aransas region from December 25-29.

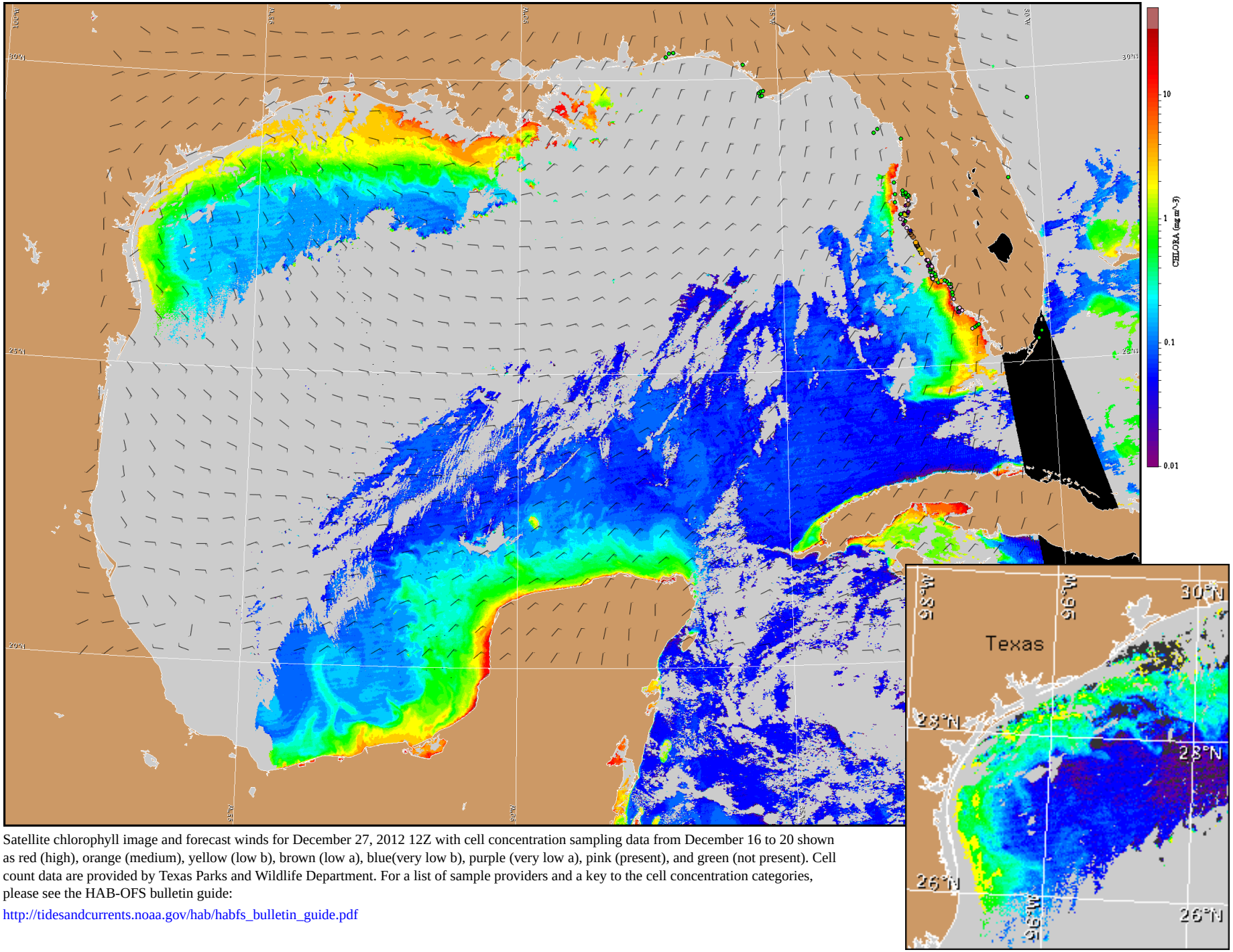
Kavanaugh, Davis



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas: North winds (10-25 kn, 5-13 m/s) today becoming northeast winds (5 kn, 3 m/s) tonight. Southeast winds (5-15 kn, 3-8 m/s) Thursday. South to southwest winds (10-15 kn, 5-8 m/s) Friday becoming northwest to north winds (10-25 kn, 5-13 m/s) Friday afternoon through Saturday. Northeast winds (15-20 kn, 8-10 m/s) Saturday night. East to southeast winds (15-25 kn, 8-13 m/s) Sunday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for December 27, 2012 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from December 16 to 20 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).